

Psalm 83

New King James Version

Prayer to Frustrate Conspiracy Against Israel

A Song. A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God!

² For behold, Your enemies make a ^[a]tumult; and those who hate You have ^[b]lifted up their head.

³ They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones.

⁴ They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from *being* a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more."

⁵ For they have consulted together with one ^[c]consent; they ^[d]form a confederacy against You:

⁶ The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;

⁷ Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;

⁸ Assyria also has joined with them; they have helped the children of Lot. *Selah*

⁹ Deal with them as *with* Midian, as *with* Sisera, as *with* Jabin at the Brook Kishon,

¹⁰ Who perished at En Dor, *who* became *as* refuse on the earth.

¹¹ Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb, yes, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,

¹² Who said, "Let us take for ourselves the pastures of God for a possession."

¹³ O my God, make them like the whirling dust, like the chaff before the wind!

¹⁴ As the fire burns the woods, and as the flame sets the mountains on fire,

¹⁵ So pursue them with Your tempest, and frighten them with Your storm.

¹⁶ Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek Your name, O LORD.

¹⁷ Let them be ^[e]confounded and dismayed forever; yes, let them be put to shame and perish,

¹⁸ That they may know that You, whose name alone *is* the LORD, *are* the Most High over all the earth.

Footnotes

a. Psalm 83: 2 *uproar*

b. Psalm 83: 2 Exalted themselves

c. Psalm 83: 5 Lit. *heart*

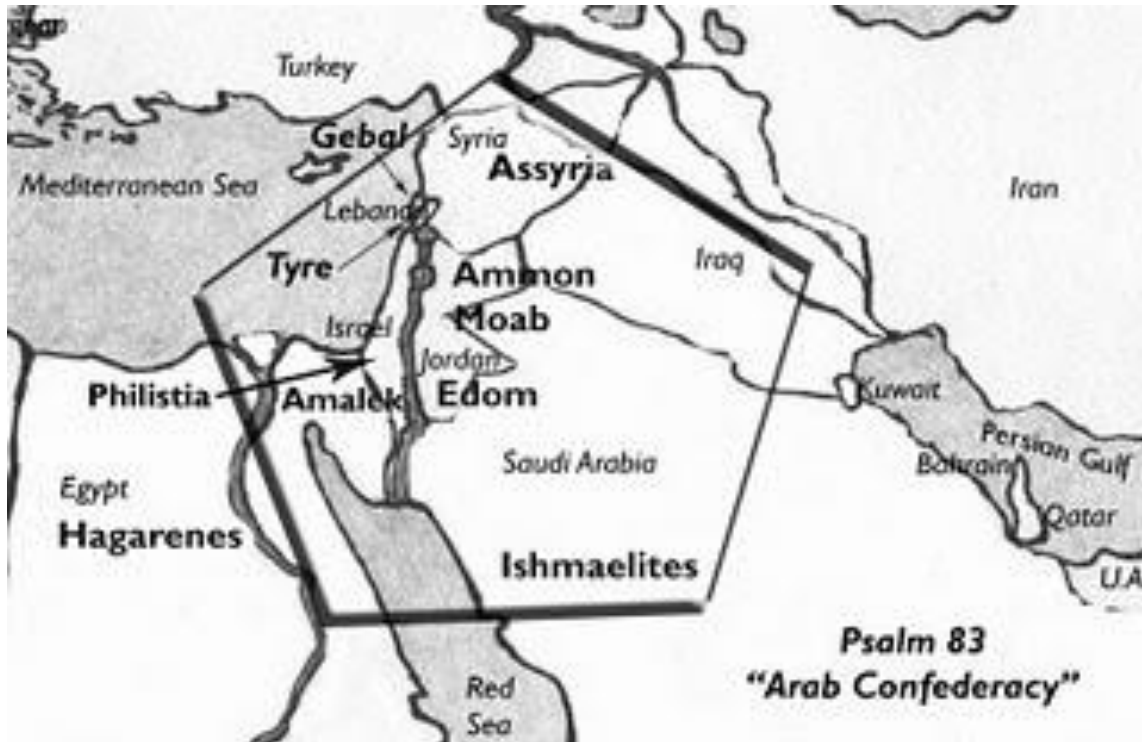
d. Psalm 83: 5 Lit. *cut a covenant*

e. Psalm 83: 17 *ashamed*

Other Notes

Psalm 83: 6-8:

Edom – Ishmaelites – Moab – Hagrites – Gebal – Ammon – Amalek – Philistia – Tyre – Assyria



Edom:

A name given to Esau in the Old Testament, as well as to the nation descending from him. Esau's name in Hebrew means "red" and also "hairy"; a reference to his redness and hairiness at birth (Genesis 25: 25). Genesis relates this directly to his selling his birthright for some "red" (Hebrew: *'ādôm*) 'stuff' (LSB and GNB) or pottage (KJV, RV and ASV) or 'stew (NKJV and NIV) stuff' – hence Esau was called Edom (Hebrew: *'ēdôm*) – see Genesis 25: 30.

The Edomite people were a Semitic-speaking tribal group inhabiting the Negev Desert and the Arabah valley of what is now around the southern part of the Dead sea and adjacent Jordan. The region has much reddish sandstone, which may have given rise to the name "Edom". The nation of Edom is known to have existed back to the 8th or 9th century BC, and the Bible dates it back several centuries further. So the term Edomites is an ancient name for the Jordanians.

There were several historical waves of Edomite migration out from their original homeland into Israel. They generally settled in and around Hebron, which today exists in the modern day West Bank. Ultimately they became known as the Idumeans, which is the Greek word for Edomites. The territory they developed inside of Israel assumed the name Idumea.

Biblically the "tents of" condition alludes to either refugees or military encampments. In the Edomite instance their refugee condition became a troubling reality in 1949 when the Palestinian Refugee crisis commenced. Up until that time they were known as the Arabs of Palestine, these days they are referred to as refugees.

Ishmaelites:

The Ishmaelites, descendants from Abraham and Hagar whose first son was called Ishmael, (Hebrew: *yishmâ 'ê'l*, meaning 'God will hear) – see Genesis 16: 11-16, 17: 18-26.

He is regarded as the father of the Arabs primarily – they settled in Arabia / Saudi Arabia and were Bedouin tribes. Although many people associate the Ishmaelites with the Arabs but this is an over-simplification. The Ishmaelites married with the ancient Arab peoples who lived east on Babylon. So the Arab peoples are the only remaining peoples with Ishmaelite blood in them.

Book of Jubilees 20: 13 'And Ishmael and his sons, and the sons of Keturah and their sons, went together and dwelt from Paran to the entering in of Babylon in all the land which is towards the East facing the desert. And these married with each other, and their name was called Arabs, and Ishmaelites'. So the term Ishmaelites refers to the Arab people of today.

Moab:

Moab was an incestuous son of Lot by his elder daughter (Genesis 19: 30-38). It is also the name of his territory and his descendants (Moabites).

Moab is the historical name for a mountainous strip of land in modern-day Jordan running along the eastern shore of the Dead Sea, north of Edom. In ancient times, it was home to the kingdom of the Moabites, a people often in conflict with their Israelite neighbours to the west. The Moabites were tribal people living east of the Jordan River.

The Moabites refused the Children of Israel permission to pass through their territory on their way to Canaan (Judges 11: 17-18).

Balak, king of Moab, sought to gain victory over Israel by cursing her through the prophet Balaam (Numbers chapters 22 – 24). Through Moabite women the Children of Israel were led into worship of false gods (Numbers 25: 1-3).

Isaiah later spoke prophetically of Moab's demise (Isaiah chapters 15 and 16).

Moab today forms part of the land of Jordan.

Hagrites:

The Hagrites...Hagarenes is a better translation - the Hagrite tribe (also spelled Hagarite) were a nomadic Arabian tribe descended from Hagar. Hagar was Sarai's maid whom she gave to Abram by whom she bore a son, Ishmael. Hence this is another Arabic people – they were a nomadic tribe living east of the Jordan (see 1 Chronicles 5: 10, 8-20).

They are associated with land in Egypt west of the Red Sea.

Gebal:

Gebal is a Mediterranean city in present-day Lebanon, known today as Byblos (Arabic name of Jbeil or Jubayl) and was also referred to as Gibelet during the Crusades.

The city is located between Beirut and Tripoli.

Some believe Gebal was probably a community south of the Dead Sea, near Petra in Edom.

Ammon:

Ammon was an incestuous son of Lot, by his younger daughter (Genesis 19: 30-38). Ammonites are a nation descended from Ammon, whose land was located east of the Jordan River, north of Moab.

Since the Ammonites were a people living east of the Jordan river in ancient times, this refers to Jordanian and Syrian Arab peoples (the Jordan river stretches from Syria to Jordan) - Ammon today forms part of the land of Jordan.

The Ammonites refused the Children of Israel permission to pass through their territory on their way to Canaan (2 Chronicles 20: 10). Later Jephthah, a judge of Israel, defeated the Ammonites (Judges 11: 4-6, 32-33).

Amalek:

Amalek was a grandson of Esau. The Amalekites were an ancient nomadic people who originated from the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt but also spread through southern Syria and north-western Saudi Arabia; hence Amalek refers to Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.

Joshua led the army of the Children of Israel in their defeat of Amalek, who attacked them, during their 40 year wilderness wanderings (Exodus 17: 8-16). King Saul was told by the prophet Samuel of the Lord's instruction to kill all the Amalekites and their possessions – but he spared their king and took their flocks – which led to the Lord rejecting Saul as Israel's king (see 1 Samuel chapter 15).

Philistia:

Philistia was located southwest of Israel. The Philistines occupied the five cities of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, and Gath, along the coastal strip of south-western Canaan, that belonged to Egypt up to the closing days of the Nineteenth Dynasty (ended 1185 BC).

So this we can understand as meaning the Palestinians (descendants of the Philistines and the Egyptians).

In his prophecy of the end-times battle, in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, Joel mentions both Philistia and Tyre (Joel 3: 1-6).

Tyre:

Tyre is a city in southern Lebanon - so this is a reference to the Lebanese.

In scripture it is often mentioned with Sidon, a city on the coast just north of Tyre.

Ezekiel speaks of a lamentation for Tyre (Ezekiel chapter 27).

Assyria:

Assyria (Asur in KJV) was originally a region on the Upper Tigris River, named for its original capital, the ancient city of Assur.

Assyria was a dominant nation of the eighth century BC which took captive the ten northern tribes of Israel in 620 BC. Assyria used smaller nations, like Moab and, to accomplish its military goals. The Assyrian empire was defeated by the Chaldeans in 620BC and finally fell totally when Nineveh was captured in 612 BC and the Neo Chaldean Babylonian empire was established.

Syria became a province of Assyria in several stages, Northern Syria was taken over by the Assyrians as they conquered the reign of the Hittites and Southern Syria fell later (Damascus).

The reference to Assyria is thus a reference to Syria and Iraq.

Psalm 83: 10-11:

Midian (Midianites) – Sisera and Jabin

Midian:

Midian was a son of Abraham by his wife Keturah – he had five sons himself (Genesis 25: 1-4). They settled in "the land of the east" (Genesis 25: 6); most scholars believe the land of Midian was officially on both sides of the Gulf of Aqaba, although the Midianites showed nomadic tendencies later in their history (see Habakkuk 3:7).

These wandering herdsmen from east of the Red Sea had been dealt a severe blow in Moses' time (Numbers 31: 1-18) and still resented the Israelites. They became the worst scourge yet to afflict Israel during the time of the Judges (see Judges chapter 6). Gideon defeated the Midianites very decisively and miraculously (see Judges chapter 7).

Sisera and Jabin:

Jabin was king of Canaan into whose hands the Lord had delivered Israel because of their sin. Sisera was the commander of Jabin's army.

Barak (a leader of the tribe of Naphtali) and Deborah (a judge of Israel and a prophetess) defeated Jabin and his army commander, Sisera, near the brook Kishon (see Judges chapters 4 and 5). Sisera and Jabin fled. Sisera was killed by Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, who hammered a tent peg into his head (Judges 4: 17-22). Jabin is simply recorded in scripture as being destroyed (Judges 4: 24) - so thoroughly was he destroyed that we do not read of the kings of Canaan any more after this.

Endor is generally identified with the modern Endur, a small village on the northern slope of Jebel ed-Duchy, with several ancient caves. It is not far from Nain and Shunem, and looks

across the valley along which the broken ranks of Sisera may have attempted to make their way eastward to the open uplands, and thence to their native North.

Psalm 83: 10-11:

Oreb and Zeeb – Zebah and Zalmunna

Oreb and Zeeb:

Oreb and Zeeb were two princes of the Midianites slain by the Ephraimites (Judges 7: 24-25). Oreb was killed at the rock of Oreb (a cliff by the Jordan River) and Zeeb was killed at the winepress of Zeeb (Gideon for fear of them had lately hid his corn by a wine-press) – they were beheaded and their heads taken back to Gideon.

Zebah and Zalmunna:

Zebah and Zalmunna were kings of the Midianites (Judges 8: 5-7) who fled after the defeat of the Midianite army (Judges chapter 7). Gideon pursued them and captured them and their armies, Gideon himself slaying Zebah and Zalmunna.